

# Utah Interstate Highway System Now Is Half Completed—Bennett

WASHINGTON — Exactly half of the 936-mile-long Interstate Highway System within Utah is now open to traffic, Sen. Wallace F. Bennett, R-Utah, reported today through his Washington office.

"In addition to the 468 miles of the system in Utah that are now in or ready for use, work is in some stage of progress on all but about 8.4 miles," Sen. Bennett said. The Utahn said the figures were supplied by the Department of Transportation.

## Key Network

"When completed, the Interstate System will be our nation's key highway network, serving both civilian and defense needs, and carrying more than 20 per cent of all traffic," the Senator continued.

Sen. Bennett said since 1956, more than \$360 (m) million worth of projects in Utah, principally financed with Federal funds as part of the Interstate System, have been completed. "Currently, there is an additional \$160.3 (m) million worth of projects underway or authorized," he said.

The Utah lawmaker reported "as of the first of 1971, the 468 miles in Utah open to traffic included 391.4 miles completed to full or acceptable standards, and another 76.9 miles that have been improved to standards adequate for present traffic.

## Work in Progress

"Work in progress at that time

included 133.3 miles under construction, 326 miles on which the engineering rights-of-way were being negotiated, leaving less than 10 miles of the system not in some stage of progress."

Sen. Bennett noted Congress has required that projects be planned to accommodate adequately the traffic anticipated 20 years beyond their design period.

All Federal funds for the In-

terstate program and the Federal-aid primary and secondary programs come from Federal excise taxes levied on highway users and channeled through the Highway Trust Fund.

Only once has the Nobel Peace Prize been awarded posthumously—to Dag Hammarskjöld in 1961.